

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12 and 25 are pending in this application. Of these, claim 5 is independent. Claims 1-12 are objected to for allegedly containing informalities. Claims 16, 19 and 20 have been withdrawn from further consideration. All of the pending claims have been rejected. In this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 11 and 13-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 5 are sought to be amended and new claim 25 have been added. Support for this new claim can be found in the Specification, for example, at paragraph [0081] and Fig. 4(A). Applicant believes that these changes introduce no new matter. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1-12 are objected to for allegedly containing informalities. In particular, the Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 5, of which other claims are dependent on, contain grammatical errors rendering the claims unclear. Applicant asserts that the above amendment removes such informalities. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,854,849 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki"). Claims 21-24 have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,657,680 to Takizawa. ("Takizawa"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 5 recites a holding member that includes a holding structure. The holding structure allows the rotation of a second optical element in a plane orthogonal to an optical axis. This feature can advantageously relieve stresses due to, for example, the difference

between the linear expansion coefficients of the second optical element and the holding member. This feature is disclosed in the Specification, for example, at paragraphs [0081] through [0083].

Takizawa (US 6,657,680) discloses a visual angle compensating film 419 (allegedly corresponding to the second optical element of claim 5) that is attached on receiving surfaces 821A of the frame members 82 (see Takizawa at column 9, lines 29-35 and Figs. 10 and 11). Furthermore, the frame members 82 are connected and fixed to the retaining frames 81 which are fixed (see Takizawa at column 9, lines 5-14).

Therefore, it is impossible to rotate the visual angle compensating film 419 in a plane orthogonal to the optical axis. In addition, Takizawa does not teach that stresses can be relieved by rotating the visual angle compensating film 419.

Accordingly, Takizawa fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 5 and its dependent claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, and 25. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5316. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5316. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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